WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A therapeutic suspension for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) infection in humans comprising isolated and purified HIV-1 *nef*-deficient viral particles prepared from cells transfected with a recombinant HIV-1 molecular clone having a *nef* deletion between the endonuclease cleavage sites Nco I and Xho I, wherein said viral particles are suspended in a pharmaceutically acceptable medium and said suspension functions to increase or restore CD4+ lymphocyte levels in HIV-1 infected subjects.

2. The suspension of claim 1 in said suspension further reduces the HIV-1 viral burdens in HIV-1 infected subjects.

3. The suspension of claim 1 in which said suspension further restores the normal activation pathway of cytotoxic T lymphocytes.

4. A method for reducing the HIV-1 viral burden in HIV-1 infected subjects comprising the following steps:

a. preparing a therapeutic suspension comprising isolated and purified HIV-1 *nef*-deficient viral particles prepared from cells transfected with a recombinant HIV-1 molecular clone having a *nef*-deletion between the endonuclease cleavage sites Nco I and Xho I, wherein sai dcirall particle sare suspended in a pharmaceutically acceptable medium; and

b. administering said suspension to an HIV-1 infected subject.

5. A method for restoring activation pathways of cytotoxic T lymphocytes in a subject comprising of the following steps:

a. preparing a therapeutic suspension for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) infection in humans comprising isolated and purified HIV-1 *nef*-deficient viral particles prepared from cells transfected with a recombinant HIV-1 molecular clone having a *nef* deletion between the endonuclease cleavage sites Nco I and Xho I, wherein said viral particles are suspended in a pharmaceutically acceptable medium; and

b. administering said suspension to a subject.

6. A method for decreasing the number of HIV-1 virions in an infected subject comprising of the following steps:

a. preparing a therapeutic suspension for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) infection in humans comprising isolated and purified HIV-1 *nef*-deficient viral particles prepared from cells transfected with a recombinant HIV-1 molecular clone having a *nef* deletion between the endonuclease cleavage sites Nco I and Xho I, wherein said viral particles are suspended in a pharmaceutically acceptable medium; and